

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 ERDA-05
SS-15 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EPG-02 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 STR-04
TRSE-00 /123 W

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O R 061000Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8375
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8333

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, JA, US
SUBJECT: JAPANESE COMMENTARY ON REPROCESSING TALKS

SUMMARY. JAPANESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF ONGOING WASHINGTON REPROCESSING TALKS HAS BEEN PROMENENT AND SUBSTANTIAL. IT HAS FOCUSED ON REPORTED DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH BETWEEN US AND JAPAN ON "NATURE" OF TOKAI REPROCESSING PLANT, SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED, AND PRODUCT OF PLANT (PURE PLUTONIUM OR PLUTONIUM/URANIUM MIXTURE). JUNE 5 COMMENTS OF PRIMIN APPEAR TO SOFTEN SOMEWHAT INITIAL RESISTENCE OF GOJ OFFICIALS TO US PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM OUTSET, SECOND ROUND OF US-JAPAN REPROCESSING TALKS IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN FRONT PAGE NEWS IN JAPAN. ON EVE OF TALKS, FONOFF OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY GAVE ASSURANCES THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT
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COMMENCE TOKAI REPROCESSING OPERATION WITHOUT US APPROVAL AND STATED GOJ HOPED TO OBTAIN THAT APPROVAL DURING TALKS, ALONG WITH US PERMISSION FOR BRITISH AND FRENCH REPROCESSING OF JAPANESE SPENT FUEL. FOLLOWING DAY, DUE TO TIME DIFFERENCES, MEDIA ABLE TO CARRY ONLY COMPOSITION OF BOTH SIDES' DELEGATIONS AND FACT THAT US HAD MADE DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT WHICH HAD NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. SOON THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, DETAILS OF

US PROPOSAL BEGAN TO EMERGE WITH COVERAGE CONCENTRATING ON REPORTED DIFFERENCES AS TO "NATURE" OF TOKAI REPROCESSING FACILITY ITSELF (EXPERIMENTAL OR COMMERCIAL PRECURSOR), TYPE OF SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED (STANDARD IAEA OR STIFFER), AND TOKAI END PRODUCT (PURE PLUTONIUM OR URANIUM/PLUTONIUM MIXTURE).

2. AS US PROPOSAL BECAME KNOWN, GOJ OFFICIALS BEGAN TO COMMENT. FIRST OFF MARK WAS ELECTION-MINDED CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA WHO DESCRIBED US REPROCESSING CONDITIONS AS "EXTREMELY STRICT" AND EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN COULD NOT CONSENT TO FUTURE LIMITS, NOTING LONG LEAD TIMES OF FULL SCALE REPROCESSING PLANTS. THAT SAME DAY (JUNE 4), REPRESENTATIVES OF MITI, FONMIN AND SCI/TECH AGENCY MET TO AGREE ON "UNIFIED" GOVERNMENT VIEW PUBLISHED IN ASAHI FOLLOWING DAY. "VIEW" IN STRAIGHTFORWARD AND STRONG LANGUAGE STRESSED ADVERSE IMPACT OF NEW US NUCLEAR POLICY ON JAPANESE NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANS, GOVERNMENT CREDIBILITY, AND JAPAN'S ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY. JAPAN AGREED, "VIEW" CONTINUED, WITH US NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS, BUT BELIEVED PROBLEM CONFINED TO "SEVERAL" COUNTRIES ON WHICH ATTENTION SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED. CONCLUDING, IT CALLED FOR SOLUTION BASED ON PRESIDENT'S APRIL 7 PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT US WOULD NOT IMPOSE ITS REPROCESSING POLICY ON JAPAN (AMONG OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS), SCI/TECH AGENCY HEAD UNO ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT HOLDING OUT POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING US IN MID-JUNE AND START-UP OF TOKAI PLANT IN JULY, DESPITE "FIRM" US POSITION.

3. MOOD WAS SOFTENED, HOWEVER, JUNE 5 WHEN PRIMIN FUKUDA DURING CAMPAIGN SWING THROUGH NORTHERN KYUSHU AND SOUTHERN HONSHU
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ADOPTED MORE FLEXIBLE POSTURE. PRIMIN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING GOJ WOULD RESPOND IN "FORWARD-LOOKING MANNER" TO US REQUEST TO SEND AN INSPECTION TEAM HERE. VOICING SOME PESSIMISM THAT A SOLUTION COULD BE REACHED BY JUNE 6, FUKUDA SAID, ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, THAT US TEAM MIGHT COLLECT DATA AS BASIS FOR LATER "POLITICAL" DECISION. FUKUDA SAID US HAD NO DOUBTS ABOUT POSSIBLE JAPANESE MILITARY USE, BUT IT MIGHT BE CONCERNED OVER PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS, SAFE PLUTONIUM HANDLING, ETC. WHEN ASKED WHETHER US WANTED MIXED PLUTONIUM/URANIUM END PRODUCT, FUKUDA SAID THAT WAS "TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT" AND LIKENED PROCESS OF MODIFYING TOKAI PLANT TO THAT OF CHANGING A BEER FACTORY INTO A SOFT DRINK PLANT. HE ALSO INDICATED UNO'S "MID-JUNE" US VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE DELAYED.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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